

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 OES-07 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 NEA-10  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /137 W  
-----017384 090208Z /73

R 081330Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6911  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS BUJUMBURA 0291

STATE FOR AID

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

39 11652: NA  
TAGS: EAID, BY  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE DONORS ROUND TABLE

1. GRB CONDUCTED ROUND TABLE FEBRUARY 20-24  
TO WHICH CURRENT AND POTENTIAL ASSISTANCE  
DONORS WERE INVITED TO DISCUSS BURUNDI NEEDS  
WITH GRB OFFICIALS. SIXTY FIVE DELEGATIONS ATTENDED  
MEETINGS WHICH GRB CONDUCTED IN IMPRESSIVE  
MANNER. DONATIEN BIHUTE, SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR PLANNING, HANDLED CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN  
ROLE VERY ABLY. FONMIN MUGANGA MADE OPENING  
AND CLOSING STATEMENTS.

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2. BIHUTE SUMMARIZED THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLES  
TO BURUNDI'S DEVELOPMENT AS FOLLOWS:

A. OVERPOPULATION. BIRTH CONTROL IS A POSSIBLE SOLUTION,  
BUT IT WILL REQUIRE AN EVOLUTION IN MENTALITY OF POPULATION  
BEFORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN.

B. BURUNDI'S LANDLOCKED POSITION

C. INEFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

D. SOIL EROSION/DEFORESTATION

E. POOR FARMING PRACTICES

F. BURUNDI'S MARKET LIMITATIONS

G. LACK OF TRAINED PERSONNEL

MAJOR PRESENTATIONS WERE DOVOTED TO SECTORS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, MINING, ENERGY, HOUSING, INDUSTRY, HANDICRAFTS, TOURISM, BANKING, HEALTH, EDUCATION, TRANSPORTATION, AND POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

3. ALTHOUGH GRB SPEAKERS MADE IT CLEAR AT OUTSET THAT RURAL DEVELOPMENT WAS GOVERNMENT'S FIRST PRIORITY, THIS BECAME SOMEWHAT DIFFUSED DURING COURSE OF CONFERENCE. SOME 92 DIFFERENT PROJECTS WERE PRESENTED INCLUDING EVERYTHING FROM A NEW AIRPORT TO HANDLE 747 AIRCRAFT AND REQUEST FOR BOEING 737 TYPE AIRCRAFT TO NEW BREWERY IN GITEGA. THIS VAST SHOPPING LIST WAS NOT ORGANIZED ACCORDING TO PRIORITIES.

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4. LAMBACHER, REPRESENTING U.S., STATED U.S. DESIRES TO ASSIST BURUNDI WITH RURAL DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVES PARTICULARLY IN FIELDS OF FOOD PRODUCTION, RURAL HEALTH/MCH, ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUED PL480 TITLE II ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO SUMMARIZED STATUS OF PROJECTS CURRENTLY IN PLANNING AND IDENTIFICATION STAGES AND COMPLIMENTED GOVERNMENT ON UNDERTAKING ROUND TABLE. HE STATED U.S. APPLAUDED GRB'S EMPHASIS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

5. GRB MADE IT CLEAR THAT GOVERNMENT DESIRES EXPAND ITS CONTACTS WITH OUTSIDE WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY THE WEST AND DEVELOP CLOSER DONOR COOPERATION. FONMIN SPECIFICALLY STATED GRB WANTS TO CHANGE QUOTE OSTRICH POLICY UNQUOTE THAT DOMINATED BURUNDI'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOR SO MANY YEARS. COMMENT: IT IS THE VIEW, HOWEVER, OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE OFFICIALS HERE, THAT OBJECTIVES OF SENIOR GRB OFFICIALS ARE NOT SHARED

THROUGHOUT ADMINISTRATION AND IN ALL TOO MANY INSTANCES  
THEY ARE NOT EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATED TO MID-LEVEL  
MANAGERS AND PROJECT CHIEFS.

6. ALTHOUGH INTERNATIONAL DONOR COMMUNITY  
WAS WELL REPRESENTED AND ORATORY EVOKED  
INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, FEW TANGIBLE RESULTS  
WERE IMMEDIATELY APPARENT. ONLY THE ALGERIANS  
HAVE FOLLOWED UP THE MEETINGS WITH AN INTEREST  
IN THE VARIOUS REQUESTS. MAJOR WESTERN DONORS  
ALREADY HAVE THEIR PROGRAMS LINED UP FOR YEARS  
IN ADVANCE, AND VARIOUS POTENTIAL DONORS INSIST  
ON BETTER DESIGNED PROJECTS THAN THOSE PRESENTED.

GOOLD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
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